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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence

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Prepared by [redacted] delivered
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MEMORANDUM

THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION IN LAOS

1. The International Control Commission (ICC) in Laos, established by the 1954 Geneva Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities in Laos, is responsible for "supervising the execution by the parties of the provisions" of that agreement. At the invitation of the Royal Lao Government in July, 1958, the ICC in Laos adjourned sine die with provision for reconvening in accordance with normal procedures. On 24 April, 1961, the Geneva Co-Chairmen (UK and USSR) called for a reconvening of the ICC to verify a cease-fire in Laos.

2. The ICC is composed of representatives of Poland, India, and Canada, each assisted by a mixed civilian and military staff of varying size. The commission is chaired by the chief Indian representative, who currently is Samar Sen. Sen will soon be replaced by Avtar Singh. Both are career Indian diplomats of neutralist persuasion but with basic sympathy toward the West. The chief Polish delegate is Ambassador Morski, who has sought to pose as an "honest broker" anxious to bring the warring Laotian factions together and at the same time warning darkly of the consequences

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of failure to reach a settlement. Canada is represented by Ambassador Mayrand, who has worked hard to induce his colleagues to construe the ICC's terms of reference more liberally and generally to back the West's position that the ICC must be strengthened.

3. Each delegation chief is assisted by a military advisor, but the bulk of the contingents from the three countries are organized into a working-level secretariat, which is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the commission. The Indians staff the administrative, signal and medical support sections. Of the two operations sections, a Canadian is chief of the section dealing with air transport, movement of teams, and special visits, while a Pole heads the more important section which deals with the receipt of complaints, investigation of complaints, and ICC team reports.

4. In early June there were 29 Poles, 80 Indians, and 24 Canadians in Laos attached to the Commission. These figures may have been changed recently. In the absence of a detailed cease-fire agreement among the three opposing factions, the ICC has been unable to establish fixed teams at points of potential conflict. The bulk of its personnel is still in Vientiane, although there is a team of about ten men at Xieng Khouang for liaison with the Pathet Lao and the shadow government of Souvanna Phouma. ICC observers at the

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Ban Namone truce talks fly up with the Boun Oum delegation from Vientiane for each session of these desultory negotiations.

5. In addition to its limited terms of reference, the ICC is hampered in its operations by the lack of its own transport for inspection missions. It is dependent on aircraft of the French military mission for flights to Xieng Khouang since Souvanna will permit no other aircraft to land there.